

Samuel Houston to Andrew Jackson, February 15, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Washington, February 15, 1827.

Dear General , On the 12th Inst. Mr. Southard sent to me a letter sealed, 1 which, in his note he alledged was a reply to yours of the 5th Ultimo. It being sealed induced me to return it, and State to him my reasons for so doing. I allowed him one night to determine whether he wou'd return me an answer open—he has concluded that he will not and I have refused to receive for you any other. In making known to me his determination he says to me, in his letter "If under this determination you are disposed to comply, with his request, contained in his *letter to me* , to inclose my reply, I will immediately inclose it to you again. If you think proper to decline sending it, I will take care that he (Genl. Jackson) receives it by some other safe conveyance."

1 Vol. III., pp. 342–344.

It is needless for me to make any comments on this subject to you as relates to *myself only* ! For me at this time to do any act, not perfectly pacific wou'd no doubt meet all the wishes of the Cabinet. I will let matters rest as they relate to *me* , but at the same time I am satisfied that his course, wou'd justify me under almost any other state of facts asking him *personally* , if he intended disrespect to me, and if he was not prompt in denying, *to slap his jaws!*

The present course of Mr. S. has been adopted I have no doubt after some half dozen cabinet councils. 2 I will not trust his letter or mine to him in reply to him by mail!

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2 President Adams's *Diary* mentions several private discussions of the matter with Secretary Southard, but apparently it was not discussed in any meeting of the Cabinet.

He will send his reply to you by mail, and it is for you to determine whether or not you will receive it in that way. my impression is that it (their object) is to get me, to *cut* some *capers* here with them, or to let you see that they will have something to do in the manner of negotiation.

If his letter should reach you, and you receive, and read it, I hope you will take no course until I get home, for the reason, that I can tell you much that I will not put in a letter, which will go far in placing the ground *all* before, and when they are *all* before you you can *act!*

I will try, and reach home early after Congress rises.

Please make my most cordial salutations to Mrs. Jackson and best wishes for her health and happiness.

With most perfect respect and regard I am your friend